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AN OLD SOUL **P.3**

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FOOD THE FLAVORS OF CHINA'S
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今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY
ISSUE NO. 731
JUNE 19, 2015
BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN
3.00元

TIME AND SPACE

ZHANG XIN'S UNIVERSE IS EMPTY AND YET FULL, THERE AND
YET NOT. ARMED WITH WESTERN OIL PAINTS, HE TACKLES
MANY OF BUDDHISM'S MOST ABSTRACT CONCEPTS. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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ISSN: 2095-9591 ■ 刊号: CN11-0120 ■ 邮发代号: I-364 ■ Overseas Code No: D1545 ■ Subscriptions: (010) 6590 2511
Advertisements: (010) 6590 2515 ■ E-mail: info@beijingtoday.com.cn ■ Online Distribution Agents: Spider.com.cn and Kankan.cn
Published under the auspices of the Office of the Beijing Municipal Government. Run by Beijing Youth Daily Group.

ISSN 2095-9591
00731
9 772095 959006



ENTERTAINMENT



BY DIAO DIAO

New films with good actors and awful stories seems to be the trend in Chinese cinema, and the new Hong Kong film *Lost in Wrestling* is no exception. Although the June 5 release is the only Chinese film to feature wrestling in recent memory, it bombed in spite of a star-studded cast.

Young Mongolian wrestler Naren receives an invitation to wrestle in Japan, but before she leaves she is charged with looking after her cousin Chinasi, who has been away from family for more than a decade.

Naren arrives in Japan. During the wres-

ting conference, she meets Machiko, a Japanese wrestler who was abandoned by her husband, and Yueyue, a Hong Kong girl who ran away from home.

The host of the wrestling conference is an arrogant man called Boshi who wears a clown mask in public. Boshi succeeds in convincing Naren and the other two girls to join a wrestling competition with the three strongest women.

Even while facing fierce competition, Naren continues to look for Jinyue's grandson Chinasi and learns he changed his name into Ruonan.

Surprisingly, Ruonan refuses to go back to his hometown to see his grandmother. More surprisingly, Naren learns that the warm-hearted Ruonan and the host Boshi are one and the same.

Naren finally succeeds in convincing her childhood friend to return home and keep the Mongolian tradition of wrestling alive.

The film stars William Chan as Chinasi and Ruonan, Siqin Gaowa as Jinyue and Li Fei as Yueyue.

Siqin Gaowa is an actress who is originally from Inner Mongolia. She found fame after playing the head of the Bai family in *Dazhai-*



Photos by douban.com

men, a popular TV drama about Beijing's biggest medical family. Her role as Empress Dowager Xiaozhuang in *Kangxi Dynasty* left a deep impression on Chinese viewers.

In *Lost in Wrestling*, Siqin Gaowa plays a Mongolian woman who is much closer to her role in real life.

William Chan may be the biggest selling point of this film according to most reviewers – especially the females.

Actress Li Fei is well known for her relationship with Huang Xiaoming, who fell in love with Angelababy after their breakup. However, Li's mudwrestling scenes in the film helped her shake off a public perception of her as a "loser in love."

But hot actors and actresses couldn't counterbalance all the problems with this film. Obvious plot points, unsurprising twists and bad editing left many viewers confused. Some say that the film tries to imitate the avant-garde editing of *Lost in Translation*, but fails.

A movie ticket will buy you some beautiful panoramas of the Mongolian grassland. If you go expecting more than that, you might leave feeling disappointed. ■



Ironical Astrologer Releases Capricorn-Bashing Book

BY DIAO DIAO

Weibo users and fans of astrology are probably familiar with Tongdao Dashu, a Chinese humor writer known for his ironic analysis of the stars.

Tongdao Dashu is a graduate of Tsinghua University who hails from Guangdong province. He found fame in 2013 when Weibo was at its peak of popularity on the Chinese Internet.

His amusing comics and comments about the stars were a breath of fresh air compared to the many stodgy public accounts that offered conservative astrological predictions.

Tongdao Dashu's work focused on the negative aspects of each star sign – especially as they apply to relationships. That ironic antidote to popular astrology won him as many fans as it did critics.

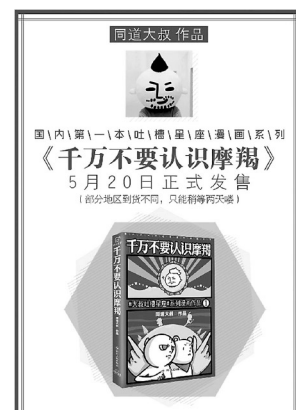
Of course, his critics were usually people whose star signs took a regular beating in the column.

Many of Tongdao Dashu's posts have made it onto lists of hot topics over the last three years. As of this April, his account had more than 5 million followers.

May 20 marked the launch of his first

book, *Don't Stay With Capricorns*. The book continues his sharp and comical approach to astrology, criticizing Capricorns as friends, lovers and colleagues.

Astrology has become extremely popular with China's young adults during the last decade. Even before Tongdao Dashu's column became popular, Virgos were already being stereotyped as picky and obsessive-compulsive. In some way, the column is less a cause of than a reaction to many of the unbearable stereotypes that dominate astrological discussion.



Photos by Tongdao Dashu on sina.weibo.com

A few have criticized *Don't Stay With Capricorns* for "lacking research value." But really, no one who is following the author on Weibo gives a toss about the research value of his comical writing.

During a book signing on May 23, many longtime followers were surprised to learn that Tongdao Dashu is a young man born in the 1990s in spite of his "big uncle" moniker.

He is also the founder of the popular app Be With Me, a chat program designed to encourage strangers to share their secrets. ■

MUSIC

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Mouse on the Keys @ Yugong Yishan

Mouse on the Keys is a blend of minimal phrased piano and dynamic drumming—a live visual and audio experience performed by world-class musicians. Formed in 2006, Mouse on the Keys taps jazz, funk and electronic music to create a genre of their own. The trio consists of Akira Kawasaki and Atsushi Kiyota, two former members of Japanese underground band Nine Days Wonder, and the hip-hop drummer Daisuke Niitome.

🕒 9-11 pm, June 20
📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
💎 120 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

Horse Radio @ MAO Live House

Founded in 2006 and formerly called Taan Towch, Mongolian rockers Horse Radio value creativity. Their new combination of classical music and folk is paving a new path for Mongolian music. Horse Radio recently released its first album.

🕒 8:30-11:30 pm, June 20
📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

Red Cash @ Lanxi Bar

RedCash is a dynamic group of three girls. Bass player Tuzi is from China, guitarist Demi is from Vietnam and lead singer Tula is from Zimbabwe. Their music is carefree and blends the genres of dance, rock, electric and pop with a splash of groove.

🕒 9:30-11:30 pm, June 21
📍 183 Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng
💎 Free



Liu Yusi @ Slow Living

Singer-songwriter Liu Yusi might be better known on the Beijing live music circuit as one of the guitarists of the Randy Abel Stable. But he also writes and performs his own music. His musical world is a melting pot of blues, folk, R&B and East Asian folk. The blend sounds kaleidoscopic, while rootsy and warm at the same time.

🕒 8:30-11:30 pm, June 21
📍 73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng
💎 Free

Young Band With an Old Soul: Su Zixu and the Paramecia

BY WANG YAN

Su Zixu sits in Alba, one of the more artsy cafes on Nanluogu Xiang. Like the rest of his bandmates, Su uses the English name "Benjamin," which was inspired by *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.

In spite of being in their early 20s, Su Zixu and The Paramecia believe they are aging backwards.

Fans of Chinese talent shows may remember Su for "Fuse & Dissolution," his powerful guitar composition with poetic lyrics that rocked the stage of *Sing My Song*. With his vintage floral shirt and trademark Mod hairstyle, Su took the stage after a 12-hour creative marathon to bare his soul and discover the limelight.

While the show brought him a degree of fame, Su says the biggest thing he has gained from the appearance was the friendship of his competitors and his TV mentor Yu Quan.

Musically, Su hated the process. "I only joined the show because I needed to find people with whom I could write the kind of music I want to make," Su says.

After the show, Su rejected many commercial opportunities to reassemble his band the Paramecia. The group came together several years ago when Su was in Nanjing, but like many small bands, it did not survive very long.

Sing My Song helped Su to meet rhythm guitarist Leng Jie, bass player Li Yong and their drummer Lucass. The four, whose ages span nearly three decades, became the new Paramecia.

The Paramecia

It is hard to define The Paramecia's style, but Su and Li say their goal is to create Chinese-style rock that can be understood by people around the world. Music based on happiness and sufferings is a universal language, Su says.

"We wanted to express our thoughts on life with our music, and these ideas come from our life here," Su says.

Like many Chinese indies, Su and his band

find inspiration in the original works of Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones. But the band is hardly eager to be another me-too Western rock knockoff.

"We play any style. You name it, even punk and rap. When you open yourself to anything, it makes you unique. If what you're playing isn't coming from your heart, then it's not yours," Su says, taking a drag off his cigarette.

The small band has big ambitions. Su imagines a kind of raw music that speaks directly to the heart. He demands "explosive emotion" of everything his fellow band members produce.

Su says he has experienced things that most people can never imagine, but that he prefers to keep those stories to himself.

"The media has a way of burning through musicians," he says. "We want our music to be a resurging flame—the one you see when hopes is dashed to bits."

He and Li compare genre labeling to the masks users wear on social networks. "Things you post online are only the things you want others to see, but is that the real you? Probably not, it's just the mask of your life," Su says.

It's safe to say Su and Li are not heady young musicians: they know what they want to do with their music.

"We have our own ideas and don't care if they are right or wrong. We don't care if others like it. We want to make ourselves feel good first. Making music is like other things in life—both partners should feel good about it," Li says.

Although the band has been touring China for a year, it has little in the way of crazy stories.

"Honestly, the craziest thing I have ever done is choosing to make music," he says.

"Society and the media have given everyone the wrong impression about musicians. They make us out to be cool, aloof and unrealistic people who cannot handle real life. In fact, we can do lots of things. We can chop wood, we can cook—we can do everything. And because we can do everything, we choose to follow a harder path in life," Su says. ■

Photos by Su Zixu and The Paramecia



ARTISTS



Li Jie

The Garden of Time and Space

BY WANG LINGXIAO

For many new viewers, it's the title of Zhang Xin's work that catches their attention. Emptiness in Non-Emptiness and Being in Non-Being, his long-running series, conjures up abstract Buddhist concepts of time and space.

Zhang explains his work using a mortal viewpoint. While most people regard the universe as empty, it's only because our view of it is limited to the surface. At the same time, the world's apparent detail masks how it is part of that same emptiness.

The concept takes shape in Zhang's 27 oil paintings that use traditional Chinese elements to explore questions of time and space.

The first work, *Cloud and Conception*, depicts a fish flying over a cloud on a light blue background. The blue is borrowed from his earlier TV screen series, where the color was used to represent a screen with no signal.

Born in Tianjin in 1988, Zhang is a quiet and sensitive man who considers the world from odd perspectives. He began to study illustration when he was 10 years old. His grandfather and uncle were fans of calligraphy and wash painting, and their tastes influenced his work even as he pursued professional training in oils.

As a graduate student at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, Zhang returned to that childhood interest to study traditional elements.

"I loved everything fantasy when I was a child, especially legends and sci-fi movies," Zhang says. "From there I took an interest in Western surrealist painting, but I gradually found that Oriental images had a bigger influence on my style."

Garden art is an especially powerful source of inspiration. The Taihu stones of Chinese gardens make frequent appearances in Zhang's work.

"Simple objects can express deep meaning," Zhang says. "Taihu stones are aesthetic symbols of the traditional Chinese garden. They connect with nature and leave people space to imagine."

Goldfishes, horses, birds and lotus flowers are his most lively subjects. The white horse in his *Chu Kong* seems to hide stories in its eyes, which separate the creature's feeling from the world.

His more recent work *Cycle* is derived from a romantic story about Chinese gardens.

Liu Mengmei, a 29th generation descendant of the ancient poet Liu Zongyuan, took his name from a dream about a garden in which a beautiful lady stood under a plum blossom tree. That would become the foundation of *Peony Pavilion*, one of China's most famous plays.

The plum blossom finds a place in many of Zhang's paintings. "I didn't use the flowers' real color, but picked an imaginary blue that would show how this world is detached from reality," Zhang says. In its reflection, the tree is shown without flowers.

"The contrast reflects the passage of time. Flowers bloom in winter. After winter, they fade and wait for the next year," he says.

The march of time is also the point of his *Past & Present*. Buildings with different styles are collected in one scene. Arranged as forests and mountains, the buildings represent modernity while the Taihu stones represent nature. A dragonfly is link that connects the new and old.

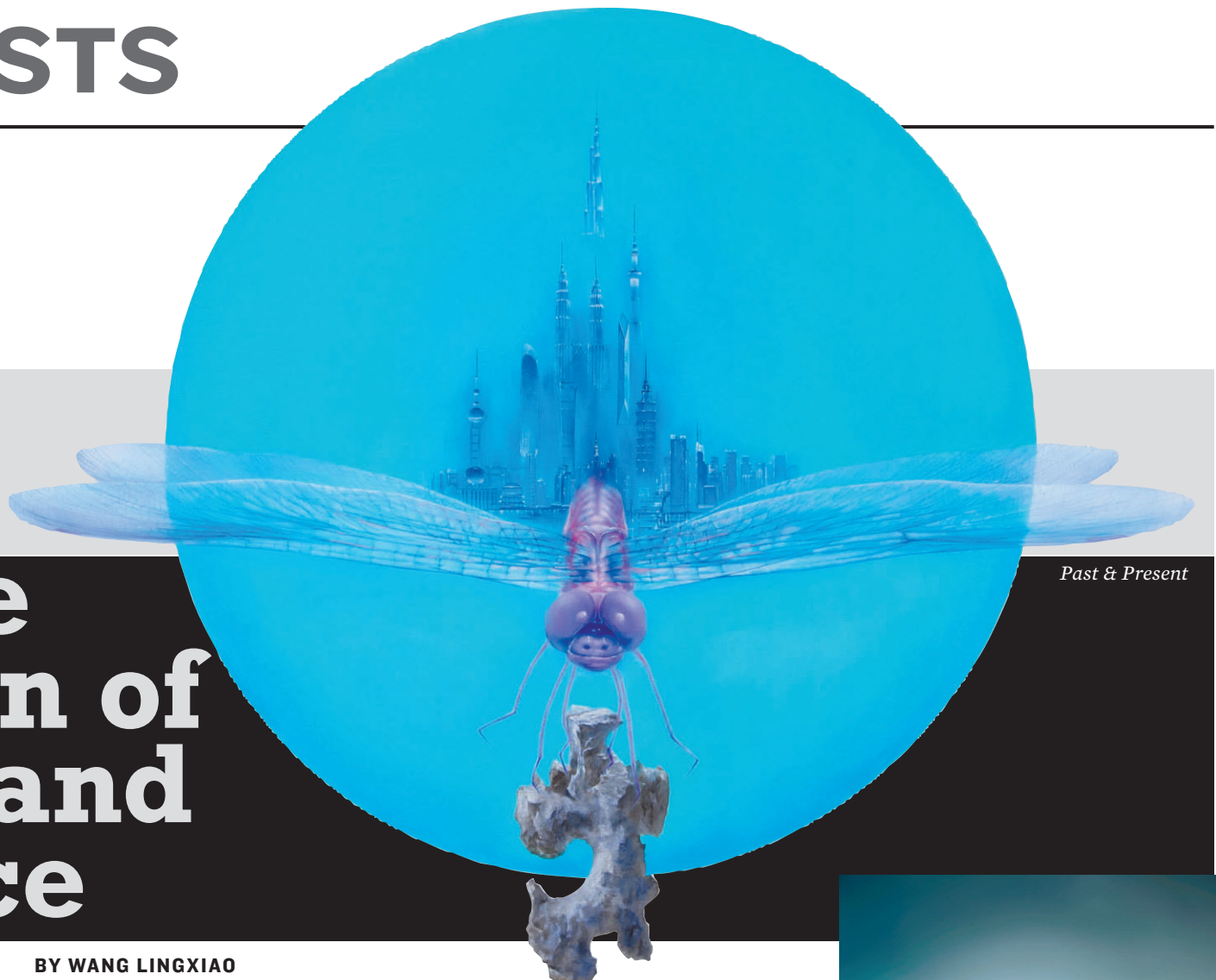
"The flying dragonfly carries the past and present to go farther," he says.

Aside from time, the extended space offers Zhang an area to play with geometric figures. Circles, triangles and squares are the architectural elements of his gardens. They are the shapes of the windows and doors and the connection between scenes.

Zhang is currently attempting to transition his art into video and installation work.

"I think most of my current works reflect that I am still searching for a suitable style. I hope I'll mature as an artist to create better works in the future," he says. ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Past & Present



Chu Kong



Jing Jie



Detached



Cycle

zhangxinart.com

weibo.com/zhangxinart

Building C, People's Art Commune,
Yishu Gongchang Lu, Songzhuang
Town, Tongzhou

A TRAVEL



Photos by bbs.enorth.com.cn



Photo by blog.sina.com.cn



Photo by dcbbbs.zol.com.cn



Special Museums of Tianjin

BY SHU PENGQIAN

Tianjin is a coastal city that blends Chinese tradition with Western colonial architecture. Its past is fused with the present.

Most visitors limit their Tianjin trips to the Yongle Bridge, the Eye of Tianjin, the Italian Style Street and St. Joseph's Cathedral. But for Beijingers, none of these are particularly interesting.

Still, the city has a collection of special museums that offer interesting collections you would be hard-pressed to find in the capital.

Tianjin Postal Service Museum

Tianjin is the birthplace of the modern Chinese postal service. The city had the first stamps, the first postage forms, the first postage regulations and more. Many of these old objects have been brought together in the Tianjin Postal Service Museum.

The collection reaches back into the photos, relics and sculptures of the last dynasty to show how China's postal services have evolved over the centuries.

While the number of items in its collections is small, most are rare pieces that cannot be seen anywhere else.

One of its most valuable exhibits is the original manuscript of "Proposed Stamps and Postcards for the Imperial Chinese

Post," a landmark work by Robert Alexis de Villard that set the form and printing process of the first Chinese stamps.

It also includes samples of the first "Da Long" stamp and "The King of Chinese Stamp" in its permanent collection.

The museum's stamp collection is the dream of any amateur collector, and its gift shop sells some interesting hand drawn postcards.

⌚ 9 am - 4 pm

🚌 Take Buses 13, 35, 96 or 97 to Chengde Dao Station

💎 Free admission, Treasure Room tickets priced 5 yuan

☎ (022) 2331 0386

Shoe Culture Museum

Most people put more attention on their clothes than their shoes, let alone caring which kind of shoes people wore in ancient times.

But for casual shoe lovers or people with a hardcore case of the Imelda Marcos Syndrome, the Chinese Shoe Culture Museum could be worth a stop.

The museum puts you on the trail of historic shoeprints as you follow footwear from the ancient past to the present. Each

exhibit introduces a new footwear evolution and its social usage.

The custom-made shoes used for cheating on the imperial exam might be the coolest exhibit.

The museum also offers visitors a chance to make their own shoes with ancient tools. A custom pair of shoes could be a cool keepsake or interesting addition to your wardrobe.

🚌 Take Buses 1, 605, 609, 610, 632 or 633 to Northeast Corner Station

💎 15 yuan

Princess's Residence Museum

This private museum grew out of the former residence of the Qing Princess Deling.

In 1904, the princess lived in the courtyard house to escape an unsatisfactory marriage. Although she left in 1905, this yard got its name from the noble's brief stay.

The home has a number of artifacts that were used by the princess. A walk through the house can give you an idea what life as a Qing Dynasty noble might have been like.

The museum hosts daily reenactments of Deling's imperial wedding ceremony.

⌚ 8:30 am - 5 pm

🚌 Take Buses 15, 161, 168, 635, 657, 693, 840 or 855 to Gulou Station

💎 10 yuan

☎ (022) 2727 7755

Old City of Tianjin Museum

If you just want to learn more about Old Tianjin, it might be a good idea to pass up the crowded Tianjin Museum for the ancient photos and objects in this small museum.

The museum has a side role as a crosstalk comedy performance venue.

If you've been shopping on the nearby Gulou Commercial Street, a cup of tea and a show at this museum might be a great way to relax.

⌚ 9 am - 5 pm; Shows at 2:30 - 5 pm (Tuesday to Friday); 1 - 3:30 pm, 4 - 6:30 pm and 7:30 - 10 pm (weekends)

🚌 Take Buses 15, 161, 168, 635, 657, 693, 840, 855, 863 or 865

💎 5 yuan

☎ (022) 2728 3899

China House

This hundred-year-old Western building is packed with broken china collected by Zhang Lianzhi.

The roof, walls, floors, and banisters all feature rare fragments.

The house sparkles under the reflection of sunshine. But if you are one of the millions of people who claim to suffer from Trypophobia, it might be best to steer clear. The uneven and pitted pottery fragments could give you nightmares.

⌚ 9 am - 6 pm

💎 35 yuan

☎ (022) 2712 3366

(Shu Pengqian is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Photo by mafengwo.cn



Photo by dp.pconline.com.cn

ETCETERA



Much Ado About Teen Life

BY QU CHAONAN

Zhèngtài (正太)

Zhèngtài is borrowed from the name of Shoutarou Kaneda (金田正太郎), a Japanese anime character dressed in a suit jacket and shorts. Since the series' debut, Zhèngtài has been used to describe cute and handsome boys between the ages of 3 and 15.

Most people who fancy Zhèngtài are older women who are fascinated by their appearances and treat so-described boys as younger brothers or sons.

The popular teen idol group TF Boys (The Fighting Boys) is one example: the three young teens have countless crazy female fans.

Zhōng'èr Bìng (中二病)

In Japanese, Zhōng'èr refers to the second year of junior high school and Bìng means disease. Zhōng'èr Bìng refers to teens who think they are different, superior and mature.

Typical Zhōng'èr Bìng thinking may include: the world is wrong, not me; dark forces are cool; I can get pretty good grades even if I just review the material one day before the exam.

Teens of that age tend to think they are the center of the world and are eager to show off their difference and strong personalities. But as time goes on, most grow out of that mindset.



Dāiméng (呆萌)

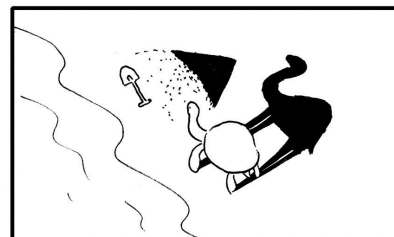
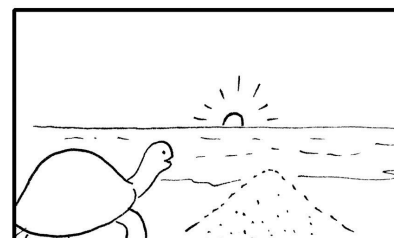
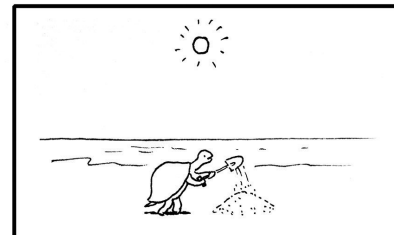
Giant pandas may be the best representative face for the Dāiméng: people who look a little dorky and dull. Chubby, expressionless kids are also called Dāiméng.



But the word does not refer exclusively to children. Adults who are childish, simple-minded and easily dazed can also be described as Dāiméng. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANLuo

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design.
For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [@tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing.

You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. I'm moving to Beijing to teach this July. I would like to find an indoor Tai Chi class taught in English. I will be working in the Wangjing area.

A. Tai Chi is starting to become popular again in the city. You can find lots of people practicing in most of the popular public parks. If you don't mind working out in the morning, you might consider joining one of those groups to learn the basics.

If you are after more professional Tai Chi training, you can try contacting Eric Liu. He is a private Tai Chi instructor who has a lot of experience in training foreigners.

Q. Where can I find a store with great CD selection?

A. Hop in your time machine and head back to 2002: there used to be one on every street!

But seriously, if you are still buying CDs there is one shop that has a good selection of jazz, rock, pop and more obscure bands. Music Shop is located on Dongs Road. Get off Subway Line 5 at Dongs Station and walk south. You can find it on the east side

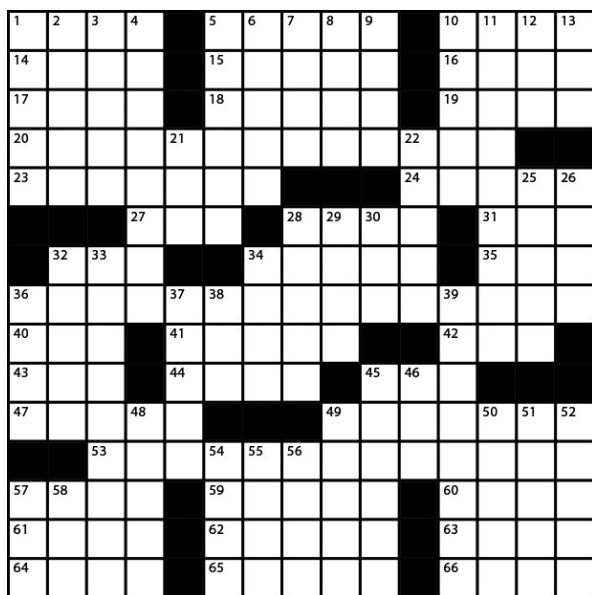
of the street.

If you are in the area, keep heading south for another 15 minutes to find China Books. They have a huge selection of out-of-print and used books and an interesting English selection.

Q. Our cat needs a new home. She is a two-year-old healthy female who is spayed and up to date on all her shots. What's the best way to find her a new owner?

A. Post your cat's information on a social media site like Sina Weibo, WeChat or Douban and ask your friends to help you share the post. Be sure to include lots of pictures. ■

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



BY SU DERUI

Across

1. Leave in, to an editor
5. Spore sac

10. Peking ____
14. Designer Chanel
15. Wait on
16. Dwarf buffalo
17. "Once ____ a time..."

18. Prepare to propose
19. Sans purpose
20. Breakfast named for a country
23. Hopi home
24. Ancient strings
27. Shack
28. African antelope
31. Childish term for urine
32. The Way
34. Red Cross supply
35. Parenthesis, essentially
36. Residency requirement
40. Not just "a"
41. "Farewell, mon ami"
42. Apply
43. Unagi, at a sushi bar
44. Parachute part
45. Bunk
47. Free-for-all
49. Blatant deception
53. Not deterred
57. Mah-jongg piece
59. Andean animal
60. Clique
61. Muslim holy man

62. Energize
63. Fencing weapon
64. Agile
65. Fab Four drummer
66. Young socialites

Down

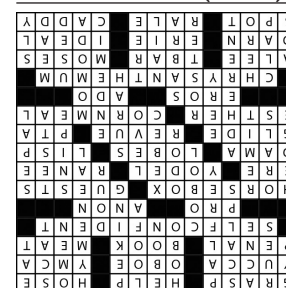
1. Diver's gear
2. Boozehound
3. Dangerous bacteria
4. Eastern city district
5. Obliquely
6. Medicinal plant
7. Kind of cut
8. Eye layer
9. Narcissist's love
10. Per diem
11. Highway feature
12. Newspaper div.
13. Mary ____ cosmetics
21. Debtor's note
22. Fall heavily, as into a chair
25. Bone-chilling
26. Breakaway group
28. Attuned
29. Language of Pakistan
30. Expected
32. Giggle
33. Lacking life's structures
34. Arouse
36. Flower holder
37. Ran
38. Bachelor's last words
39. Extremely offended
45. Chinese kabobs
46. Dinghy propeller
48. Foe
49. Promising one
50. Open-mouthed
51. Star in Cygnus
52. Borders
54. Pandora's release
55. Open, as an envelope
56. Spanish sparkling wine
57. "____ the season ..."
58. Little devil

Send your completed crossword within two weeks to get our next two issues mailed out for free!

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



Disparité: A Poet-Painter

This cross exhibition is an opportunity to discover the intertwined world of artists from the same generation.

Alain Blondel is a "poet-painter" whose works, which combine words and images, are the results of a constant dialogue between poetry and colors. As a citizen of the world, Blondel uses varied materials and techniques to recreate diversity.

Zhu Ming's talents lie in combining opposites. He is a contemporary artist with many skills. Over the past 30 years, he has produced surprising and even confusing works of art. During this exhibition, he presents a series of paintings with contrasting colors and strokes.

Both artists have experienced a major artistic turning point from contemporary paintings to abstract. Disparité is a fascinating French-Chinese dialogue between two different perspectives that conjoin at the singularity of artistic expression.

- ⌚ 11 am - 5 pm, June 20 - July 15
- 📍 XYZ Gallery, Dashanzi Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- ☎ 13701104223
- 🌐 xyzartgallery.com



Return to Subjectivity: Abstraction in Contemporary Art

Over the past few years, abstraction has re-emerged as a mainstream trend in the contemporary art scene.

What is Chinese abstract art's connection to the century-old history and forms of Western abstract art? How is Chinese contemporary abstract art linked culturally and aesthetically to China's own formal traditions? How should Chinese contemporary art make a contribution to an art form that has already existed in the West for some 120 years, rather than becoming just another short-lived prod-

uct of market manipulation?

UCCA invites Chia Chi Jason Wang, an art critic and independent curator from Taiwan, to discuss the phenomenon of Chinese contemporary abstract art and its possibilities.

- ⌚ 2 - 4 pm, June 20
- 📍 Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Dashanzi Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 5780 0200
- ✉ visitor@ucca.org.cn
- 🌐 ucca.org.cn

MUSIC

ROUND EYE & STEVE MACKAY



Round Eye with Steve Mackay, Sucker and Bedstars

Round Eye are visiting Beijing to release their new album. Performing with them will be Steve Mackay of Stooges and Violent Femmes fame!

Having previously worked with Greg Ginn (Black Flag), Round Eye recorded their new album with help from Mackay. With an album release show in Shanghai and a two-month tour of the US starting in July, Round Eye is looking to start their tour with a bang in Beijing.

Making the trek up from Xi'an for the occasion are punk legends Sucker. It's not often this four-piece plays in Beijing, so don't miss out!

- ⌚ 9:30 - 11:30 pm, June 20
- 📍 School Bar, 53 Wudaoying Hutong, Chaoyang
- 💎 50 yuan, 80 yuan with Round Eye CD, 120 yuan with LP
- ☎ (010) 6402 8881
- ✉ schoolbegins@gmail.com
- 🌐 site.douban.com/school

CULTURE



Qiaozi Contemporary Artist Village Tour

Qiaozi Artists Commune is located in the northern suburb of Huairou. Dan-

shanzi's 798 may be the central hub of Beijing's contemporary art community, but there are a series of satellite centers that have developed since 1995 when Yuanmingyuan (the Old Summer Palace) closed and the artists fled to more affordable locations.

Qiaozi's architecture is contemporary and the studios offer space for major works and audio-visual presentations. Many of its artists have international exchanges with 4A Gallery in Sydney.

Visiting artists include Zeng Li Theater Studio, Shen Shaomin and Qu Yan's Art Studios. Zeng Li has a substantial studio and has worked with Zhang Yimou, director of the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony.

The art commune is an hour's drive from downtown. Meet at the China Culture Center to board the bus.

- ⌚ 9 am - 4 pm, June 28
- 📍 China Culture Center (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- 💎 350 yuan, includes English-speaking expert, transportation and lunch
- ☎ (010) 6432 9341 / 1041
- ✉ info@chinaculturecenter.org
- 🌐 chinaculturecenter.org

DINING



Issey Miyake Afternoon Tea

The Ritz-Carlton, Beijing and fashion brand Issey Miyake are presenting Issey Miyake Afternoon Tea, a collaborative culinary event, at the hotel's lounge from April 16 to June 30.

Inspired by the creative designs of 2015 Issey Miyake's new spring and summer collection Windscape and the latest global gourmet trends, Executive Chef Kevin Thomson has created a special afternoon tea menu using 3D Steam Stretch and the colors of clouds, lakes, seas and sand dunes, paired with several varieties of tea and coffee.

The Lounge provides a blissful getaway from the noise and bustle of the city with refreshing afternoon tea and exquisite champagne for business meetings or personal pleasure.

Guests who come for the Issey Miyake afternoon tea have a chance to take home a Pleats Please Issey Miyake frame or Evian Spray in the raffle. Each guest can enjoy a VIP voucher from Issey Miyake.

- ⌚ 1:30 - 5:30 pm, April 16 to June 30
- 📍 The Ritz-Carlton, Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, China Central Place, Chaoyang
- 💎 248 yuan per person, 458 yuan per couple (15 percent service charge)
- ☎ (010) 5908 8180

STAGE



The Drama Made in China Begins

Every day, Chinese factories manufacture products for export across the world. With distribution to Europe, America, Asia and Africa, these "migrants" constitute part of daily life.

It was this phenomenon that inspired *Made in China*. The play encourages humans to regard these objects from a poetic or artistic angle and asks whether they can reflect the image of a country and how they affect popular perceptions of China. French à Troupe is cooperating with Chinese actors Si Xianwei and Wu Liuqi, as well as paper sculpture artist Li Hongbo for the production.

Made in China is expected to run for one hour. The venue can seat 200 people.

Book your seats now! Reservations opened on June 8 and will fill up fast. Email 77 Theatre to get an invitation and a free seat.

- ⌚ 7:30 pm, June 19 and 20
- 3 pm, June 21
- 📍 77 Theatre, 77 Hou Jie, Art Gallery, Dongcheng
- 💎 Free admission with invitation
- ☎ (010) 6553 2678 ext 209 (French or English) / 207 (Chinese)
- ✉ RSVP88@afchine.org



NE•TIGER Spring and Summer Clothing Show

NE•TIGER took its Spring and Summer Ready-to-wear Collection Show to the Shiyi Stage on June 6.

Classical music and elegant models showed off the eastern beauty of NE•TIGER clothing to everyone present at the catwalk.

NE•TIGER uses traditional Chinese handicrafts such as Suzhou embroidery, hand painting and silk ribbon embroidery to bring plants and animals to life on its garments.

During its last 32 years of development, NE•TIGER has built a name for itself as China's top luxury brand committed to defending and inheriting native clothing culture and heritage and reviving China's own luxury culture.

FOODS



Cumin Roujiamo
Photo by Webps.cn

Tastes of Xi'an, the Ancient Capital

BY WANG YAN

With the exception of the capital city of Beijing, Xi'an might be the most frequently mentioned ancient city of northern China.

Located in Shaanxi Province, Xi'an is one of the oldest cities in the country. It was known as Chang'an before the Ming Dynasty and was the capital of several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui and Tang.

In addition to its rich history, the city has a wholly unique charm. Xi'an was the starting point of the Silk Road, a network of trade and cultural exchange routes that connected China with India, the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

But for most Chinese people, cities are more associated with their unique cuisines than their historic charms. Xi'an is no exception, with its food considered the epitome of northwestern dining.

The history of Xi'an cuisine is said to be as long as the China's civilization, retaining many traits from the Qin, Han

and Tang dynasties.

The famous Calabash Chicken (Hulu Ji) is one Xi'an dish that has its roots in the Tang dynasty. It was created by maid who was serving in the home of the Tang official Wei Zhi. The maid fried a young hen to resemble a golden gourd, and Wei named it Calabash Chicken.

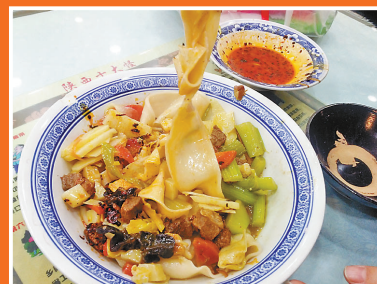
Xi'an's central geographical location grants it access to the culinary materials of both northern and southern China. Typical dishes combine the cumin of the northwest with the peppercorns of Sichuan province.

Cumin Rou Jiamo is the city's best-known street food. Traditional Rou Jiamo is made with pork that is stewed for hours in a soup of 20 seasonings. But Xi'an's Cumin Rou Jiamo is made with kabob-style beef that's seasoned with cumin and pepper.

Xi'an food can be quite peppery. One of the most famous spicy dishes in Xi'an cuisine is Biangbiang Noodles. The noodles are different from the dainty noodles favored in the south. Their broad and flat shape has earned



Photo by Enorth.com



Biangbiang noodles
Photo by Dingxidaily.com



Yangrou Paomo
CFP Photo

them the name Pi Daimian (belt noodles). The dish is a simple combination of chewy noodles, vegetables and an oily, spicy, salty and peppery sauce.

Most Xi'an dishes employ deep frying, pan frying and steaming, stir frying or braising techniques. Chefs favor a combination of salt, vinegar, chili peppers and garlic.

Crumbled Flatbread in Mutton Stew (Yangrou Paomo) represents many of those techniques. The dish is ubiquitous in Shaanxi province-particular in Xi'an. The savory dish is a combination of lamb soup and flatbread. The crumbed, unleavened flatbread soaked in highly seasoned mutton stock is particularly popular during the chilly winter. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Yangrou Paomo

BY WANG YAN

Yangrou Paomo is the perfect dish for cold winter nights, but it's also suitable for this year's windy and rainy summer. If you can't find a good Xi'an restaurant in your area, you can try to make your own. Just don't down this heavy dish too close to bedtime.



CFP Photo

Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 inch sliced ginger
- ☐ 2 scallions
- ☐ 3 pieces star anise
- ☐ 2 tsp Sichuan peppercorns
- ☐ 1-2 flatbread loaves
- ☐ Several large wood ears
- ☐ Rice noodles
- ☐ Salt; Dark soy sauce
- ☐ Chili sauce
- ☐ Sweet, pickled garlic (optional)

The Steps:

1. Boil the lamb for 10-15 minutes, skimming off any white foam that floats to the surface.
2. Add the scallions, ginger, anise, salt and soy sauce.
3. Turn the heat down to its lowest setting. Cover with a lid and simmer for 2 to 2-and-a-half hours or until the meat is tender.
4. Clean and soak the wood ears in water.
5. Crumble the flatbread into small pieces.
6. Heat up a pot and add some scallions.
7. Add the lamb stock. Return the pot to a high flame and add the wood ears and rice noodles.
8. Add the salt and peppercorns. Toss in the flatbread.
9. Serve as soon as the bread starts to soften. Garnish with chili sauce and sweet, pickled garlic.

Lao Xi'an Restaurant

BY WANG YAN

Lao Xi'an Restaurant, as its name suggests, is one of Beijing's time-honored brands. Opened in October of 1954, the restaurant was the first in Beijing to specialize in Muslim dishes of the northwest.

The restaurant is famous for its Crumbled Flatbread in Mutton Stew (Yangrou Paomo). In addition to that savory dish, Lao Xi'an also serves traditional northwestern food such as lamb kabobs and Fried Sheep Fillets (Tasimi).

Tasimi is one of the most distinctive dishes in Chinese Islamic cuisine. The lamb slices are tender and fried with a sweet and sour taste. Under the reign of the Empress Dowager Cixi, Tasimi became a royal dish. Court chefs who were always trying to find something new for the picky empress fried lamb and tossed it with sweet bean sauce and sugar. After her chefs failed to name the dish, the empress decided to call it "Tasimi."

In the years since, Tasimi has become a popular halal dish with Muslims, particularly in northern China.

Lao Xi'an follows the traditional recipe for Tasimi by using lamb the main ingredient. However, some reviewers have complained that the dish is a little too sweet and meaty.

The restaurant has three branch locations across the capital: one in central Beijing, one in the east and one in the west.

The location in Xicheng District is reputed to be the best of the three. ■



Photos by dianping.com

Lao Xi'an Restaurant

20 Xijiekou Nan Dajie, Xicheng
(010) 66181748